

ANS Correspondence

Gunther, Charles Frederick
[Chicago, IL]

1915-1917

November 16th, 1915.

Mr. Charles F. Gunther,
Gunther Building,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. S. H. Chapman, of Philadelphia, informed me, a while ago, that you are a collector of things relating to the Indians, and are well posted on the subject. I am on the hunt for information regarding Indian peace medals, and if you can give me any help it will be greatly appreciated.

Do you know anything about the oval Indian peace medals of Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland and Harrison? Were any of them actually given to the Indians and worn by them? I have seen one specimen in silver, but it was not pierced and had no attachment for suspension, and looked to me like a silver proof—similar to the bronze re-strikes that are sold at the mint. We have in our collection a round Benjamin Harrison medal that was not only worn by an Indian, but has his name stamped on it.

Do you know in how many sizes the Jefferson medal was struck? I have seen it in three - 104 mm., 78 mm. and 56 mm., but have never felt absolutely certain that there was not a size between the last two. We have in our collection one of the smallest size, but so far, have not been able to get either of the larger ones.

We have one of the large oval medals of Washington, and are anxious to locate any others.

I am hoping to be able to gather sufficient material to write a history of the Indian peace medals for the American Journal of Numismatics, but there are several points on which information does not seem easy to obtain. This Society has a very fine collection of these medals, and is trying to obtain such varieties as it lacks.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

C. F. GUNTHER
402 GUNTHER BLDG.
1018-1020 S. WABASH AVENUE
TELEPHONE HARRISON 128

CHICAGO. Dec. 3, 1915.

Mr. Bauman L. Belden,
156th St., West of Broadway,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter will say that I
don't think any Indian peace medals were ever made
by Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland and Harrison.
At least I have never seen one that I remember.

*oval all of
have are
round.*

I don't know anything about the size of
the Jefferson medals. I have some but I cannot
refer to any of my medals because they are all
packed away in storage.

As regards to the medals of Washington
I have quite a collection both oval and round.
I have three ovals and a couple of round.

Yours very truly,

C. F. Gunther

CFG/GVL

December 8, 1915.

Mr. C. F. Gunther

402 Gunther Bldg.,

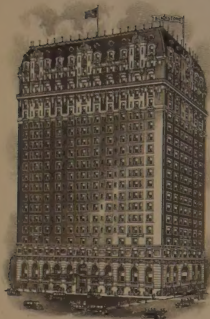
1018-1020 Wabash Ave.,

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

Please accept my thanks for your letter of December 3rd and for the portrait of Columbus, which is most interesting.

I am sending you under separate cover a copy of volume 48 of the American Journal of Numismatics, which please accept with my compliments, and I trust that you will find it of interest. I am planning to write the history of the more important American medals in a series of articles in the Journal. The first of these is the short article on War Medals of the Confederacy in the volume that I am sending you. The next volume which will be published early in 1916, will contain a much longer article on United States ^{War} Medals and I hope sometime later to be able to secure sufficient information to thoroughly write up the Indian Peace Medals, and if at any time you happen to have your medals unpacked where they are accessible, I would be very glad if I could have any definite description of the Washington and Jefferson or of any other unusual ones that you might have. *Most Cordially yours* B.R.B. Sec



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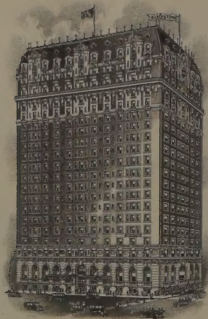
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CHICAGO, Dec. 6th. 1916

My dear Reilley,

Immediately upon receipt of your recent letter concerning Mr. Gunther I took steps to make an appointment with him and had an interview yesterday afternoon. I found him a typical, uncommunicative, canny, old german, but willing to thaw and open out on intensive cultivation. He is a typical collector with no other interest than to amass a lot of junk. In a very few minutes of talking with him it was perfectly evident that I was on the wrong tack in telling him anything about the aims, objects, and value of the American Numismatic Society. All of that left him absolutely cold. So then I tried to find out if he was in the slightest interested in a scientific view of things, but found him lack-there too. Taking the hint, I dropped anything of that nature and began to show great interest in



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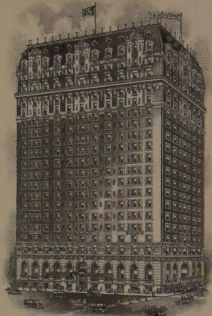
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CHICAGO,

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some atrocious paintings which "adorned" his long suffering wall. At last, after about a half hours hard work, he began to wake up a little bit and thus encouraged I applied soft soap in large and undiluted quantities until the old gentleman became quite thawed out and very pleasant. He showed me all over his diggings. But I saw that nothing could be gained just yet by approaching the matter again that was nearest our hearts - he does not seem a bit interested in what we are doing, in the great historical, and scientific value of his medals, and most of all in going to the trouble of hunting for the medals he owns. In this latter case I can hardly blame him for he showed me a huge, barn like loft absolutely filled with hundreds and hundreds of cases piled one on top of the other, all containing junk he has accumulated in his fifty years of collecting. He told me, and I must



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CHICAGO,

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needs believe him, that he himself does not know where the medals are and that it would be impossible for him to go through all those cases in a wild goose for such small objects as a few medals. Before I left, the old gentleman became very pleasant and told me to be sure to see him again the next time I was in Chicago. I think that perhaps by keeping in constant touch with him that ~~perhaps~~ in the end we can interest him in our purposes. Anyway it will do no harm to try.

We expect to be back in New York by next Monday when I can perhaps see you and talk over things in more detail.

This afternoon I expect to have a chat with Brand.

Sincerely yours,

Edward T. Newell

C. F. GUNTHER
402 GUNTHER BLDG.
1018-1020 S. WABASH AVENUE
TELEPHONE HARRISON 138

CHICAGO.

May 23, 1917.

Mr. Sydney P. Noe, Sec'y.,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, between 155th & 156th Sts.,
New York, N.Y.

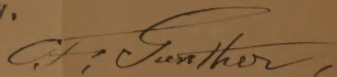
Dear Sir:-

In reply to your recent letter regarding the Indian Peace Medals, I would say that I am no nearer today in a position to comply with your request regarding the oval medals.

I was not aware that they were so scarce, as you seem to think they are. I am sure I have three or four of them, but you must remember that I have not purchased any of them in late years nor has any been offered to me. It is many years since I commenced making historical collections. I was, no doubt, early in the field when they were picked up by others collectors or historical societies.

With regrets, I remain

Yours truly,



CFG/L



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CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

The world's only authentic portrait of the great admiral and discoverer of America. First prize at Chicago World's Fair, 1892-3. Used by Washington Irving to illustrate his *Life of Columbus*, London Edition. Painted by the distinguished artist Sir Antonio Moro, Court Painter to Charles V and Phillip II of Spain, and Queen Mary of England, the second wife of King Phillip. Was knighted by the crown.

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May 25th, 1917.

C. F. Gunther, Esq.,
402 Gunther Building,
1018 S. Wabash Avenue,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Gunther:-

As you will understand I am very much disappointed by your letter. I hoped that conditions might have changed in the meantime, as I think I wrote you we have been receiving cordial co-operation on the part of the Curator of several of the state museums to which we have written. Our effort is to get as complete information regarding these medals as is to be had, and I am naturally averse to leaving such a large number as you possess undescribed. I am enclosing two sets of photographs in the hope that you will be able to tell me whether your medals resemble any of these. The Red Jacket type you will recognize immediately, as you will doubtless some of the others. Can you give me any details as to when and from whom you obtained these medals? Would you have in your file of correspondence perhaps any reproductions of them? Please pardon my persistence which I hope you will feel is explained by my interest in this series.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.